

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the Office Action, dated May 6, 2004, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 7-15, objected to claims 2-6, and allowed claims 16-22. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's statements regarding allowance of claims 16-22 and allowability of claims 2-6 if written in independent form. By the present amendment, claim 2 has been cancelled, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 19 have been amended, and new claims 23-24 have been added. After the present amendment, claims 1 and 3-24 are pending in the present application.

A. Rejection of Claims 1, 7-10, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7-10, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Malki (USPN 6,044,068) ("Malki"). Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has made the following amendments to place pending claims 1, 7-10, 13 and 15 in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 2, which the Examiner has stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, and its dependent claims 7-10, 13 and 15 are now in condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, applicant has also amended claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 19 to correct a few minor informalities. Further, applicant has added new dependent claim 23, which depends from claim 1, and new dependent claim 24, which depends from claim 16.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 23-24 are supported by the specification and no new matter has been added.

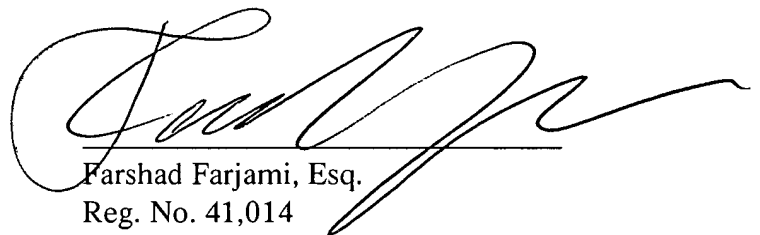
B. Rejection of Claims 11-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Malki. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-12 and 14 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed at least for the same reason claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

C. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early notice of allowance for claims 1 and 3-24 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;
FARJAMI & FARJAMI LLP



Farshad Farjami, Esq.
Reg. No. 41,014

Farshad Farjami, Esq.
FARJAMI & FARJAMI LLP
26522 La Alameda Ave., Suite 360
Mission Viejo, California 92691
Tel: (949) 282-1000
Fax: (949) 282-1002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "First Class Mail Post Office to addressee" under 37 C.F.R. Sec. 1.10 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 6/16/2004

LESLEY L. LAM
Name


Signature